Introduction of F.M. Band By AIR, Jhabua

687. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had given their sanction to introduce F.M. band by the All India Radio of Jhabua district in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the F.M. service has not yet become functional despite according the sanction; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Allotment of PCOs/STD/ISD Booths.

688. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down by the Government for allotment of PCO's STD/ISD booths;

(b) the number of PCO's/STD/ISD booths sanctioned during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for sanction of such booths, State-wise and

(d) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) STD PCO's are allotted by the STD PCO allotment Committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members and non-official members one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA.

Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons;

(1) Handicapped including blind persons.

(2) SC/ST applicants.

(3) Ex. Servicemen & War Widows.

(4) Retired DOT employees or their dependent.

(5) Dependants of Freedom Fighters.

(6) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as possible.

Cargo Handled by Visakhapatnam Port Trust

689. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the cargo handled by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust in 1997-98 as against the target set up;

(b) the berth occupancy of the port and the profit earned during the period; and

(c) the steps proposed to increase the activities of the Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The port handled a traffic of 36.01 Million Tonnes as against the target of 35.6 Million Tonnes during 1997-98.

(b) The overall average berth occupancy was 90% during 1997-98 and the Port earned a provisional net surplus of around Rs. 73.00 Crores.

(c) The Port traffic is projected to be around 45 Million Tonnes by the turn of the Century. The Port has planned many schemes during the IXth Plan including one LPG Jetty, one Multi-purpose Berth in Outer Harbour and four Multi-purpose berths in the Inner Harbour for augmenting the existing Port Capacity.

Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin

690. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government regarding the proposed Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the inordinate delay in taking steps in this direction; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) M/s. Frederic R. Harris, Dutch Consultants in their report submitted in 1991 recommended establishment of Container Transhipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin. The report is being updated. Simultaneously, Expressions of Interest have been invited from Port Developers/Operators for establishment of the Terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer Basis.

Delimitation Commission

691. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Delimitation Commission for Lok Sabha constituencies;